

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

SAM-01 H-02 L-03 SY-05 /062 W
----- 082588

R 121737Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4248

UNCLAS LISBON 5394

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, BGEN, PO

SUBJ: LOCK-IN AT U.S. CORK FIRMS

1. STRIKE OF 15,000 CORK PROCESSING WORKERS IN LISBON AREA
PRECIPITATED LOCK-IN BY WORKERS OF TWO U.S. CITIZENS AT ONE
U.S. OWNED PLANT AS WELL AS LOCK-IN OF OTHER MANAGERS OR
OWNERS AT SEVERAL PLANTS, INCLUDING ANOTHER U.S. FIRM.

2. MR. ARTHUR DODGE, VP O DODGE CORK OF LANCASTER, PA.,
AND MR. ROD REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT OF DODGE CORTICEIRA OF
LISBON, WERE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING DODGE CORTICEIRA
PREMISES ON NIGHT OF SEP 10 BY WORKERS WHOSE UNION WAS
DEMANDING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH 50-75 CORK FIRMS IN
LISBON AREA. A GERMAN NATIONAL ALSO DETAINED. (DODGE CORTICEIRA
IS JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN DODGE CORK AND PORTUGUESE INTERESTS).
REYNOLDS ALLOWED TO LEAVE EARLY SEP 11 IN ORDER TAKE BUSINESS
TRIP, BUT DODGE AND GERMAN NATIONAL INFORMED THAT ONLY ONE COULD
LEAVE WITH THE OTHER SERVING AS A HOSTAGE. BOTH FINALLY RELEASED
AT 3:00 PM SEP 12 AFTER SIGNING A DOCUMENT COMMITTING THEM TO BE
AVAILABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. TWO U.K. CITIZENS WERE TEMPORARILY HELD IN CONCORCO
PLANT WHICH IS SUBSIDIARY OF SELLER GLOBE OF TOLEDO. THEY WERE
ALLOWED TO LEAVE ONLY TO ATTEND MEETINGS BUT ONLY ON CONDITION
THAT THEY PROMISE TO RETURN OR BE ESCORTED BY WORKERS. NO
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SERIOUS PROBLEMS REPORTED AT OTHER U.S. FIRMS IN CORK SECTOR.

AT LEAST TWO OTHER FOREIGN FIRMS (DUTCH AND GERMAN) HAD LOCK-INS
OF MANAGEMENT.

4. RELEASE FINALLY EFFECTED THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF HIGH-
RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MACHADO WHO EMBASSY CALLED UPON
FOR ASSISTANCE. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE COPCON AND POLICE
FORCES REFUSED TO ACT UPON DIRECT REQUEST FROM DUTCH EMBASSY AND
UPON OUR REQUEST CHANNELLED THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY. FINALLY,
WORKERS WERE TALKED INTO RELEASE BY MACHADO.

5. EMBASSY HAS NO REPORT OF INJURY OR DAMAGE INVOLVING U.S.
PERSONS OR PROPERTY.
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